

REMARKS

Independent claims 1, 7, 14, 19, 26, 34, and 40 of the present application have been amended for clarification purposes in order to more accurately define the scope of the present claimed invention.

During a telephonic interview between the undersigned attorney and the examiner on September 19, 2005, the various rejections of the claims were discussed with respect to the present invention and the cited prior art references. At the conclusion of the telephonic interview, it was agreed that neither Mann, Takama nor Troxel teach or suggest including explicit reason information in security protocol control messages transmitted over a data network. Accordingly claims 1-45 of the present application are believed to be allowable over the cited prior art of record.

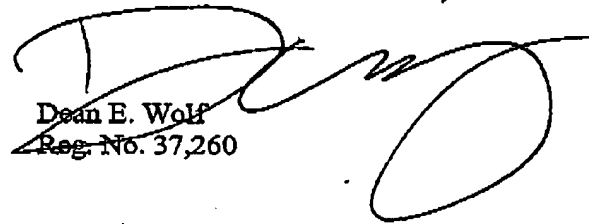
Claims 5, 11, 18, 23, 30, 38, and 44 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Mann and Takama, and further in view of Lueng (US 6,760,444). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), subject matter developed by another person which qualifies as prior under art under § 102(e), shall not preclude patentability under § 103 where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time of the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. Because the present application was filed after November 29, 2000, prosecution of the present application is subject to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Moreover, it is noted that both the present application and the Lueng reference were commonly assigned to Cisco Technology, Inc., at the time invention was made. Accordingly, it is requested that the Examiner withdraw the finality of the June 10, 2005 Office Action since at least a portion of the claims have been improperly rejected.

Because claims 1-45 are believed to be allowable in their present form, many of the examiner's rejections in the Office Action have not been addressed in this response. However, applicant respectfully reserves the right to respond to one or more of the examiner's rejections in subsequent amendments should conditions arise warranting such responses.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



Dean E. Wolf
Reg. No. 37,260

P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, CA 94612-0250